GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:425
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2006
FIRE IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidents of fire have occurred in the Ordnance Factories;

(b) if so, the details of such incidents reported during the last three years alongwith the loss of lives and properties therein;

(c) whether any inquiries have been conducted to go into causes of fire;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to prevent such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 425 FOR ANSWER ON 24.8.2006

Incidents of fire in Ordnance Factories are being reported from time to time. Details of fire incidents reported during the last three years are as under:-

Year	No. of incidents	Loss of human life	Financial loss (Rs. in lakhs)
2003-2004	NIL	-	-
2004-2005	4	1	542.07
2005-2006	3	5	18.20

All the cases of fire accidents in Ordnance Factories are invariably examined by Board of Enquiries (BOE) to determine the causes of fire with a view to take remedial measures to prevent such recurrences. In the above mentioned cases BOE have found following reasons as cause of the fire accidents:

1. Electrical short-circuit,

2. Excessive ambient temperature,

3. Accumulation of waste explosive for a longer period,

4. Violent reaction of chemicals, during process etc.

To prevent such fire accidents, adequate fire safety measures have been taken in all the Ordnance Factories. Modern fire fighting equipments have been provided to all the units. Each unit has a dedicated safety section and also fire brigade section, headed by qualified officers and round the clock vigil is kept. Periodical training is imparted to all staff on safety matters. All required precautions as per prevailing norms are being strictly observed.